

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00449 181207Z

42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 IO-13 OMB-01 RSR-01 /118 W

----- 116498

R 181100Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1565

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0449

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: THESSALONIKI PRESS ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ATHENS 4883

1. ALL THESSALONIKI PAPERS OF JULY 18 FRONTPAGE STATEMENT BY MINISTRY OF DEFENSE REBUTTING KARAMANLIS DECLARATION (REFTEL) AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF PLANNED JULY 26 TELEVISION ADDRESS BY PM PAPADOPOULOS. LATTER REPORT ALSO INCLUDES EXCERPTS YS FROM JULY 17 SPEECH TO THESSALONIKI CHAMBER OF SMALL INDUSTRY BY VICE PRESIDENT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE NICOLAOS MERTZOS. IN SPEECH TO BOLSTER SUPPORT OF REFERENDUM, MERTZOS URGED "GENERAL LENIENCY ON PART OF ALL GREEKS TOWARD OTHER GREEKS" AND, APPARENTLY REFERRING TO POSSIBLE AMNESTY FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, PREDICTED THAT GOVERNMENT WILL SOON "GIVE FURTHER PROOF OF ITS GENEROSITY AND LENIENCY".
2. BOTH PAPERS ALSO CARRY BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMBASSADOR TASCA'S RECENT CALL ON PM AND NOTE, WITHOUT COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF TALK, THAT IT FIRST MEETING SINCE JUNE 1 ANNOUNCEMENT.
3. ONLY POLITICAL COMMENTARY IN TWO PAPERS IS CARTOON IN OPPOSITION "MAKEDONIA" (IT RECENTLY RENEWED CARTOONS AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS LAPSE) WHICH DEPICTS FATHER TELLING SUITOR FOR DAUGHTER' S HAND

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THAT "JUST BECAUSE "YES" IS PLASTERED ON ALL WALLS, HE WILL NOT

NECESSARILY SAY YES".

COMMENT: SINGLE EDITORIAL WRITER HERE, ELIAS KYROU OF
CONSERVATIVE "ELLINIKOS VORRAS", ANNOUNCED JULY 17 THAT HE WILL BE
ABSENT ON LEAVE THROUGH MID-AUGUST. AS RESULT, THERE LIKELY TO BE NO
EDITORIAL COMMENT IN LOCAL PRESS RE REFERENDUM AND RELATED DEVELOP-
MENTS.
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